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Derks

Woman's body found lying in northeast road

DEATH City homicide detectives embarked on the city's first suspicious death investigation of 2010 early yesterday morning, after a half-naked woman's body was found lying in the middle of a northeast Edmonton street.

Police discovered the body in the new residential area of 151 Avenue and 31 Street around 4 a.m.

The victim's name and the cause of death have not been released.

Police are divulging few details about the investigation, but the death is considered suspicious.

METRO EDMONTON

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?

Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 2



Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

• Today — Omischl, fellow aerialists seek atonement, page 8



On the web

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Tom Green brings his unique brand of comedy to town on his first-ever stand-up tour with a run of shows at the West Edmonton Mall, starting tonight until Saturday.

Baby drops safely from apartment during fire

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

Baby Jet landed safely after he was dropped from a burning west-end apartment building yesterday morning, an incident that sparked officials to reaffirm the necessity of fire escape plans.

When the 21-month-old baby's mother saw smoke had filled the third floor hallway of the 156 Street and 104 Avenue walkup, she passed him to her boyfriend, who dropped him to a neighbour on the ground below.

"They just followed their instincts, which were to protect the child," Edmonton Fire Services spokesman Tim Wilson said yesterday.

A space heater in a second-floor bedroom is blamed for the blaze, which caused \$400,000 in structural damage and \$100,000 in contents damage. Smoke detectors went off in the hallways after fire broke out shortly after 8 a.m. Residents from 12 suites fled before fire crews arrived, all escaping injury.

Investigators discovered smoke detectors in individual suites were without batteries, Wilson said. "The situation reinforces how important it is to have an evacuation plan, and to practise with your family," he said.

"Your first alert is having a working detector. It can mean the difference between life and death."

Green-er pastures

Controversial comic tries something new with stand-up tour

"All roads seem to always lead me to Edmonton."

Tom Green

proven positive two weeks after the deaths of three Canadian soldiers last March, when a FOX News Channel talk show host mocked the Canadian military on-air.

Green fired back at Red Eye host Greg Gutfeld. He shared his disgust with the world in no uncertain terms while filming his in-home web show Tom Green's House Tonight, vowing never to appear as a guest on Red Eye again. "It pissed me off — I have

to be honest," said Green, who was raised an army brat. "It definitely was not comedy at that point. I felt it was pretty ignorant."

He says heated confrontations aren't a habit, and he's focusing on new challenges.

"I'm trying to be more positive and do things I've always wanted to do, like a stand-up comedy tour."

Edmonton shows scheduled for Red Eye panelist and comedian Doug Benson were cancelled over

the controversial remarks, after The Comic Strip management received threatening phone calls preceding his appearance.

Ironically, Green will embark on his stand-up tour on the very same stage tonight. The endeavour is a first for Green, whose resume, padded with music, television and film experience, hasn't included on-stage comedy since high school.

"I want it to be really fun. I want to keep it fresh and keep it real."

The show, which will be filmed for a behind-the-scenes DVD, runs twice nightly starting today until Saturday.

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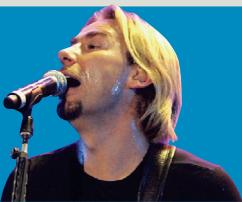
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Local



Dark Horse riding into Edmonton

Nickelback is coming to Edmonton as part of the Dark Horse World Tour. The rockers will perform Tuesday, June 1 at Rexall Place and will be joined by Breaking Benjamin, Shinedown and Sick Puppies. Tickets go on sale Jan. 16 at Livenation.com

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Edmonton tweets

- [@shezuz](#) Does anyone in #yeg send their kids to private school? Looking at Progressive Academy. What have you heard about them?
- [@ashleyglen](#) 1st #yeg Chamber announcement of 2010!! Chamber Ball2010 is Feb6th (2 days after my bday!!) so come and have a gr8 time! (1/2)
- [@chriscogswell](#) Proud owner of one of the first Google Nexus One phones in #yeg!

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Watch the collision between a Japanese whaling ship and a protest boat at [metronews.ca/world](#)**Video** Watch Mariah Carey's loopy speech at [metronews.ca/entertainment](#)**Lotteries**

Lotto 6/49: 10, 12, 15, 23, 26 & 44. Bonus 30. These results are not official.

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VICTORIA HANDSIDES/METRO EDMONTON

Defection 'a mistake,' says Tory fiscal hawk

POLITICS One of several fiscal hawks within the Alberta Tories says it was a mistake for two of his former colleagues to defect to the Wildrose Alliance.

Doug Griffiths said he won't leave the Progressive Conservatives and doesn't believe any of the remaining members of the informal group once known as the "Fiscal Four" will either.

Heather Forsyth and Rob Anderson quit the Tories on Monday for the Alliance. They said they had lost faith in Premier Ed Stelmach.

Griffiths, MLA for Battle River-Wainwright, said it's unfortunate the two didn't give the premier a chance to make good on his promise to make changes to the government this year.

"I think it was a mistake for Rob and Heather to have crossed," Griffiths said yesterday.

Eyes on spending

• The "Fiscal Four" eventually grew to eight members, but has now been reduced to six because of the defections. Other members include Tory MLAs Raj Sherman, Jonathan Denis, Kyle Fawcett, Alana DeLong and Doug Elniski.

terday.

"I think it is regrettable that Rob and Heather didn't wait to see what those changes will be."

The "Fiscal Four" wants the government to spend more prudently and save more money for the future. It also wants the government to cut red tape and to commission independent reviews of programs to ensure they are efficient and cost effective.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cats rule world of books

Local chain has been home to felines since '71

VICTORIA HANDSIDES
victoria.handsides@metronews.ca**SunnySide** ☀

per to build nests. Cats protect the books, and ours have caught mice over the years, so it's worked out," he said.

The chain's feline mascots — each named after a Montreal Canadiens player — have scaled the shelves and curled up on stacks of books since the first Wee Book location opened its doors in 1971.

Nearly 40 years and a few generations later, Yvan, Patty, Miso, Bunny, Pocket and Boom Boom carry on the custom while living leisurely lives, charming bookworms and casual shoppers alike.

"They really blend in, though, so sometimes, people don't even notice them," Luxford said.

"They were traditionally kept around as mousers. Mice would shred the pa-

them," Luxford said. "But people love them and often take their photos."

Though they live close to home, a few have performed disappearing acts over the years, he added.

In the early 2000s, twins Pocket and Rocket were snatched from the Alberta Avenue location. After scouring the area, a Wee Book staffer found the pair had been taken to the infamous Cromdale Hotel lounge.

"She found them and brought them back — we were lucky," Luxford said.

The four-legged spokespeople have become familiar faces in their neighbourhoods, and should one wander off, neighbours will often bring them home, Luxford said.

"Yes, the cats come back."

Police get over 9,000 calls on impaired drivers in '09

SAFETY The numbers are in, and 2009 was a busy year for authorities cracking down on impaired driving.

From Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2009 the EPS received 9,201 calls from citizens reporting suspected impaired drivers on Edmonton streets. In December there were 69 impaired charges laid, and 17, 24-hour suspensions. An additional 118 registered owners received letters in the mail indicating that their driving habits were reported to police.

Edmonton Police Service reminded motorists that anyone who sees an impaired driver should call 911 and report the incident immediately, take note of the location, report the licence plate number and description of the vehicle. If possible, keep the vehicle in sight, but do not attempt to chase the vehicle or break the law in order to stay close.

If a patrol car is not able to intercept the vehicle, the EPS may send a letter to the registered owner saying that his or her vehicle was spotted being operated erratically.

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'Chinese Warren Buffet' sought on Ponzi scheme allegations

Weizhen Tang, who had claimed to be a "Chinese Warren Buffett," is being sought by police on a Canada-wide arrest warrant on charges he ran a \$40-million Ponzi scheme. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Canada

Plight of Afghan women disturbing

Suicide seen as way to escape violence: Report

More Afghan women are choosing suicide to escape the violence and brutality of their daily lives, says a new human rights report prepared by Canada's Foreign Affairs Department.

The 2008 annual assessment paints a grim picture of a country where violence against women and girls is common, despite rising public awareness among Afghans and international condemnation.

"Self-immolation is being used by increasing numbers of Afghan women to escape their dire circumstances and women constitute the majority of Afghan suicides," said the report, completed in November 2009.

87% A British study, cited in the Foreign Affairs report, said 87 per cent of Afghan women complained they were the victims of violence, half of it sexual.

The document was obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

The director of a burn unit at a hospital in the relatively peaceful province of Herat reported that in 2008 more than 80 women tried to kill themselves by setting themselves on fire, many of them in the early 20s.

Many of those women died, the report said.

The frank evaluation of the plight of women was

written against the backdrop of international debate last year over the Afghanistan government's so-called rape law.

The legislation, aimed at courting votes in the minority Shiite community, legalized rape within a marriage. It prompted outrage in Canada and many other countries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Montreal police expect reprisals in simmering gang dispute, but say all-out war is unlikely. Scan this code for the full story.

Halifax Two DUIs in one day?



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Diedra Fougere is escorted from a courtroom at Halifax provincial court yesterday. Fougere was arrested twice Tuesday and charged with impaired driving on both occasions — once in the morning and again in the evening. Fougere has two previous impaired driving convictions, one in 1990, the other in 2001.

Feds to check out safety of biofuels

HEALTH The Harper government is taking a harder look at an industry that has been a political and policy darling amid soaring fuel prices and fretting about greenhouse gases.

A study has been ordered into the environmental and health effects of producing ethanol and biodiesel after other countries found facilities that produce renewable fuels could be behind problems with air, water and human health.

"Based on global production levels from the past three years alone, there is now evidence of implications to the environment from biofuels-based ethanol production facilities," says a government document released yesterday.

Biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel) are still viewed as 'green' energy sources by some, however, criticism of biofuels has also grown remarkably throughout recent years."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ARCTIC American researchers suggest the melting season for Arctic sea ice is growing faster across much of the Canadian Arctic than anywhere else in the world. A recently published

article says that, on average, sea ice has started melting 2.5 days earlier every decade and began to refreeze 3.7 days later.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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	El Salvador.....9.9 ¢		Ghana.....9.9 ¢		South Korea....2.9 ¢
	Jamaica.....8.9 ¢		Greece.....2.9 ¢		Sri Lanka.....11.9 ¢
	Jordan.....3.9 ¢		Guatemala.....10.9 ¢		Trinidad.....4.9 ¢
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World



Missing lottery winner feared killed

In 2006, Abraham Shakespeare — a truck driver's assistant who lived with his mother — won \$30 million US in the Florida lottery. His good fortune may have cost him his life. Shakespeare, left, vanished months ago, and a local sheriff has an ominous theory: He was murdered. "There are a lot of odd and bizarre circumstances in this case," Sheriff Grady Judd said. "We fear and are preparing for the worst. We're working this case as if it were a homicide."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peru Bonus baby



A child representing baby Jesus lies covered in cash as the hand of a man representing one of the Three Kings reads coca leaves in an Andean Indian market on Epiphany in Lima yesterday. Epiphany, also known as Three Kings Day, is celebrated by Catholics to commemorate the journey of the Three Kings who paid homage to baby Jesus.

News in brief

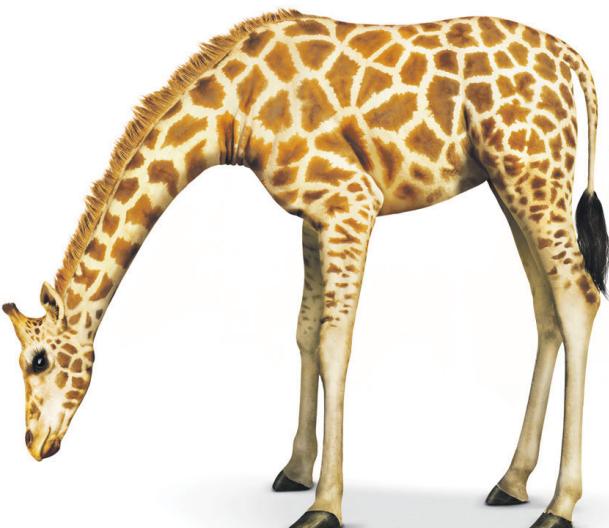
NEW MEXICO Members of a family are suing a funeral home, claiming their mother's

brain was sent home in a bag of personal effects given to them after her death. The

Albuquerque Journal reported on the lawsuit yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feeling constrained?



Yemen sensitive of U.S. intervention

Yemen's foreign minister said yesterday that his country opposes any direct intervention by U.S. or other foreign troops in the fight against al-Qaida.

Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi told The Associated Press in an interview that "there is a lot of sensitivity about foreign troops coming to Yemeni territory."

His comments came as Yemeni security forces launched a manhunt for the suspected leader of an al-Qaida cell believed to be behind a threatened attack that forced the closure this week of the U.S. and British embassies in the capital city of San'a.

Security forces swept into several areas where the militant, Mohammed Ahmed

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A Pentagon report finds rising numbers of former Gitmo detainees are returning to the battlefield. Scan this code for the full story.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

al-Hanaq, was believed to be hiding in the mountainous region of Arhab, northeast of the capital, but have not located him, security officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

The U.S. says the Arhab cell was behind a plot to send al-Qaida fighters into San'a to carry out attacks, possibly against foreign embassies. The U.S. and British embassies closed down Sun-

day and Monday, and other Western missions limited or stopped their access to the public.

Security forces on Monday tried to capture al-Hanaq as he was moving through the Arhab region, prompting heavy clashes. Mohammed Ahmed and Nazeem al-Hanaq, another al-Qaida suspect, both escaped, but two fighters with them were killed. The U.S. and British embassies reopened the following day, saying the clashes had largely resolved the threat.

There have been media reports that U.S. cruise missiles or warplanes were involved in strikes carried out last month against al-Qaida strongholds, which Yemen says killed at least 30 militants.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-prostitute loses case against school

NETHERLANDS A Dutch court has rejected a compensation claim by a woman who sued her former high school for allegedly failing to stop her from becoming a prostitute. Maria Mosterd claimed Thorbecke School should have done more to

prevent pimps preying on her and should have told her mother about her repeated school absence.

The 20-year-old wrote a book about her experiences, claiming pimps took her from school in the eastern Netherlands city of

Zwolle and put her to work as a prostitute. Mosterd and her mother Lucie, say they went to court to highlight the problem of pimps, known in the Netherlands as "lover boys," who befriend and exploit young girls.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama starts '10 with low ratings

U.S. President Barack Obama began his second year in office with the second-lowest job approval rating and highest disapproval rating of any president at that point in their term in 50 years. According to Gallup, Obama started with a 68 per cent approval rating, but has dropped to 50 per cent. Only Ronald Reagan had a lower rating among presidents beginning their second year in office.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elephant kills U.S. woman, baby

KENYA A lone elephant charged out of the brush as an American family was hiking near Mount Kenya and trampled to death a mother and the one-year-old daughter she held in her arms, officials said yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

England Winter wonderland



Swans are fed by the banks of the River Severn after snow in central England yesterday. Parts of Britain have been hit by heavy snow, and forecasters warned the big freeze will retain its grip into next week.

Canada still wants names of tax evasion suspects

Canada still hopes to persuade UBS to hand over the names of Canadian clients suspected of tax evasion, Revenue Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn said on Tuesday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Government debt a concern: Pollsters

But majority expects better economy in 2010, study says

Canadians are starting to put their confidence back in the economy but their concern over government debt has risen, according to a new survey from Pollara Strategic Research.

The study found that 54 per cent of Canadians surveyed in December expected the economy will improve in 2010. That's far more optimistic than at the same time last year, when Canada was in the midst of a major global recession.

Only 20 per cent of those surveyed in the previous poll for the Economic Club of Canada expected 2009 would bring better times.

The latest Pollara poll also found 17 per cent of respondents believe Canada is in a period of moderate growth, compared with

Slower growth

- The real challenge facing Canadians is not that the country will slip back into recession, but getting used to slower growth, economists say. An aging population and reduced demand are among factors that will determine how quickly the economy expands.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

only six per cent who felt that way in 2009.

Pollara chairman Michael Marzolini told the Economic Club of Canada yesterday that while many Canadians' fears about the economy have abated, "the public has now shifted to focus on the growing national debt."

Marzolini said that the

number of Canadians expecting higher taxes has doubled since the survey last year.

The poll results were collected from 4,263 respondents on Pollara's online panel between Dec. 6-14. A sample of this size is considered to be accurate within 1.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The Pollara poll is the latest evidence that the Canadian economy is on the mend. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Businesses increasingly look to so-called "cyber moms" as a lucrative and powerful customer base. Scan this code for the full story.

Las Vegas In your face



PAUL SAKAMOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mitsubishi 3-D glasses are shown in front of an 82-inch Mitsubishi Home Theatre TV with 3-D Ready technology at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Tuesday. Riding what could be one of the next big waves in consumer electronics, 3-D TV sets will likely cost \$200 to \$300 US more than comparable flat-panel sets without 3-D capabilities, which already run more than \$1,000, officials say.

Business in brief

MARKETS The Toronto Stock Exchange set new trading and financing records last year, a period when the market gained just under 31 per cent in stock value. Canada's dominant stock exchange owner, TMX Group, said yesterday

that total financings raised \$60 billion for companies, surpassing the previous record of \$47.6 billion set in 2007. Meanwhile, the total 2009 trading volume of 118.5 billion shares was higher than the record of 109.2 billion.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY General Motors Canada is denying a report that suggests it could reduce production at its Canadian plants when it adds new car models over the next few years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Clear goals can help investors



Investing ultimately comes down to risk and return.

RAFAEL BRUSLOW
for Metro Canada

Taking the reins of your own investments can feel both exciting and daunting, but knowing yourself and your own financial goals can make the process a lot easier.

Jason Storsley, president and CEO of RBC Direct In-

vesting, says the key to starting on any investment path is to understand first what it is you hope to get out of your investments.

"The first starting point for any investor is to understand what their goals are, and how much monthly saving they need to achieve those goals," Storsley said.

Ultimately, what invest-

"The first starting point for any investor is to understand what their goals are, and how much monthly saving they need to achieve those goals."

Jason Storsley

ing comes down to is risk and return, and how much of the former you're willing to take on will usually determine how much of the latter you can reasonably expect to make.

"What it essentially comes down to is, what level of risk are you comfortable taking to achieve your goals? A lower return gives more safety, while a higher return carries more risk," Storsley said.

Investors should always plan out whether their financial goals are more short-term, such as saving a few thousand dollars to pay off a credit card debt or to put a down payment on a new car, or more long-term, such as collecting a down payment for a house or saving up for a child's education.

The clearer and more specific you are with yourself, the easier it will be to determine what level of risk and overall investment you should pursue.

Storsley suggests most people fall into one of six investor categories. Which category you fall into can make a big difference in the types of investment decisions that will fit your own investment goals:

- **Secure investors** prefer the least amount of risk possible, usually because they want to make sure their initial investments remain as secure as possible. These types of investors prefer to maintain the security of their money for a noticeably lower rate of return.

- **Income investors** are often secure investors who prefer to have their money provide a steady, regular cash flow stream that they can count on while maintaining a steady value on the initial investment. Income investors frequently branch out to income-producing investments such as government bonds and Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs).

- **Conservative investors** are willing to take a few more risks to secure a slightly higher rate of return, but they still shy away from particularly risky investments. Occasionally, conservative investors might dabble in a risky investment or two, but generally, they keep the vast majority of their holdings in relatively safe, steady investments.

- **Balanced investors** are

more comfortable with taking risks and are willing to take a bigger stab at investments with higher risk-reward potential. Yet, they like to offset their riskier investments with a substantial portion of secure investments. Essentially, they keep a bedrock of lower-return investments in one half of their portfolio and more volatile holdings in the other half, ensuring a good chunk of their initial investment is protected while still being able to see potentially strong returns.

- **Growth investors** are comfortable with riskier investments, but they have the patience to approach their investment strategy from a long-term view. They don't need regular income from their investments and look to benefit from the stock market's long-term growth potential. Growth investors tend to invest in riskier options they believe will benefit in the long run and then hold those investments through downswings.

- **Aggressive investors** have a high risk tolerance and want to make their money grow as quickly as possible over a long-term period. They understand that the value of their investments could fluctuate greatly over time and are willing to risk significant portions of their initial investment to achieve a higher rate of return.

Once you've decided on your investor profile, RBC's online Asset Mix Calculator can help you build a portfolio already matched to your investment goals by compiling an asset mix that has been pre-screened by RBC experts.

"The Asset Mix Calculator will walk you through all the steps of the process to fit your individual investor style," Storsley said.

RBC Royal Bank branches can provide you with a comprehensive Investor Profile questionnaire and RBC advisers can help guide you through your answers to make sure you get an accurate picture of what kind of investor you are.

On the web

- For more on RBC Direct Investing, log on to rbcdirect-investing.com.

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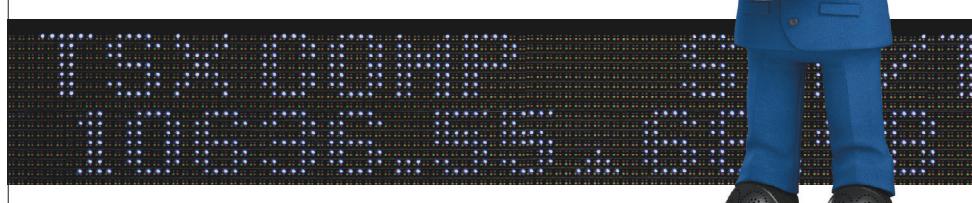


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Dawson elected to Hall; Alomar, Blyleven denied

Andre Dawson, left, was elected to the Hall of Fame yesterday in his ninth try, while Bert Blyleven and Roberto Alomar fell just short of earning baseball's highest honour. The former Montreal Expos outfielder received 420 of 539 votes in results announced by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOUILL@METRONEWS.CA

Oilers prospects impress at juniors

TheHockeyNews



thehockeynews.com

For Oilers fans watching the World Junior Championship, there have been some very big positives concerning the team's future.

Edmonton was well-represented in Saskatoon and having watched all the ma-

jer players while there on assignment, I can say two of the top prospects truly played like they were the best.

The first and most obvious was Team Canada's Jordan Eberle.

As I mentioned last time, Eberle is very close to cracking the Oilers roster and based on his play in Saskatoon, I can easily see him in the copper and blue next year.

The young pivot was very strong on the puck and displayed a sick wrist shot.

Eberle finished the tourna-

ing 13 points.

Another impressive showing in Saskatoon came from Sweden's Anton Lander. More known for his two-way play and leadership, Lander nonetheless scored both Swedish goals in the team's semifinal loss to Team USA. The young centre was also an amaz-

ing penalty-killer for the Tre Kronor.

Lander has been playing in the Swedish Elite League, so he's used to battling men, but starting his North American career in the American League next year

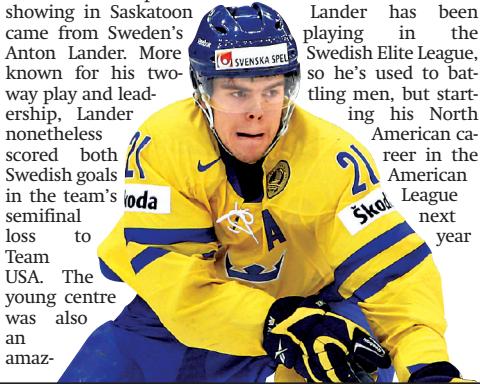
probably wouldn't hurt his long-term development.

Edmonton's other big Swede, left winger Magnus Paajarvi-Svensson, was tied for second in team scoring with 10 points. MPS showed some great strength on the puck and drove to the net against the Americans, but wasn't rewarded for his efforts.

Paajarvi-Svensson is best known for his playmaking and that will give him at least a crack at the Oilers next year.

Elsewhere, the Oilers had

Magnus Paajarvi-Svensson



a pair of high-profile Finns in the tourney, but both are still a couple years away.

Toni Rajala, who plays in the Western League for the Brandon Wheat Kings, still looks too slight for the pro game and will need to get stronger.

Teammate Teemu Hartikainen had six points in six games for the Finns and still plays at home, where he has put up decent points for a youngster.

The Hockey News
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N.Y. Rangers 0 Dallas 2
St. Louis 0 San Jose 1

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Ottawa at Washington
N.Y. Rangers at Atlanta
Florida at Montreal
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
Carolina at Nashville
Columbus at EDMONTON
Phoenix at Vancouver
St. Louis at Anaheim
Detroit at Los Angeles

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

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Atlanta 119 New Jersey 89
Boston 112 Miami 106 (OT)
Cleveland 121 Washington 98
Golden State 107 Minnesota 101
New Orleans 97 Oklahoma City 92
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Oilers set for Battle of the Basement

NHL PREVIEW

Blue Jackets vs. Oilers



HOCKEY The silver lining for the Edmonton Oilers and Columbus Blue Jackets is that somebody has to win the Battle of the Basement when the teams meet at Rexall Place tonight.

That's about as good as it gets for the struggling Blue Jackets and Oilers (16-23-5, 37 points), who will face off in a battle of teams occupying 14th and 15th place in the Western Conference.

The Oilers, coming off a 5-4 overtime loss to the Phoenix Coyotes on Tuesday, have lost 10 of their last 11 games. The Blue Jackets (15-20-9, 39 points), who lost 7-3 to the Vancouver

Canucks on Tuesday, have dropped a franchise-record 13 straight games on the road and five straight overall.

Both teams can't lose.

"I think the biggest thing for us is just having a bad memory," said Edmonton's Sam Gagner, trying to inject a little humour into a difficult stretch.

"Obviously, things aren't going well and you want to learn from the mistakes you're making, but we feel like we're playing hard. We've got to continue to push forward. Every team in this league can bring a lot any night. Even the Blue Jackets right now, with the way they're playing. It's going to be a battle, just like every game is."

"You get really focused on your own team," Edmonton coach Pat Quinn said. "We know what

No vacation

With four days between games after facing the Blue Jackets, the Oilers had planned a weekend golf trip to Palm Springs, Calif., for players, wives and sponsors. But Quinn informed his players the junket was off after a 4-1 loss in San Jose on Jan. 2.

Columbus is trying to do. "We know what Columbus has tried to do. I don't care about Columbus in that sense. I want us to put 60 minutes together because it's us and because we need to do it."

Win or lose tonight, the Oilers will spend the coming weekend on the ice doing drills, working out and going over videotape in what Quinn is calling a "mini-camp."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

UFC The UFC has pencilled in June 12 as its debut show in Vancouver, according to a source. City council paved the way for the mixed martial arts juggernaut to come to the West Coast when it approved a two-year trial period for the sport last month.

HENRY Police won't charge the fiancée of late Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry in connection with his death last month. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police announced yesterday there was no evidence that Loleini Tonga drove recklessly or with excessive speed last month when Henry came out of the back of her pickup truck on a curvy, residential road and suffered fatal injuries.

DUI Former NHL defenceman Chris Chelios was arrested last month and charged with drunk driving and speeding in suburban Chicago. Westmont police say the 47-year-old Chelios, who now plays for the AHL's Chicago Wolves, was driving alone in his pickup

truck when he was pulled over shortly after 4 a.m. on Dec. 28 for speeding and improper lane usage.

CFL The Saskatchewan Roughriders say they need more time to decide whether general manager Eric Tillman has a future with the team.

There are questions about his future with the CFL club since he pleaded guilty earlier this week to sexually assaulting his children's teenage babysitter.

BASEBALL The St. Louis Cardinals will be paying Matt Holliday through 2029 under the \$120 million US, seven-year contract that is likely to be finalized today. Holliday will get \$17 million a season in salary, but \$2 million a year will be deferred without interest, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press yesterday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the sides have not announced financial details of the deal.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOUILL@METRONEWS.CA

Eagle lands back in Canada to take part in torch relay

It's as close to Olympic glory as Eddie (the Eagle) Edwards is going to get these days.

The British man who became a folk hero during the 1988 Calgary Olympics for his geek-chic and infectious smile — despite placing dead last in ski jumping — has returned to Canada as an official torchbearer in Winnipeg.

The favourite Olympic underdog was to run 300 metres with the flame this morning to usher it out of the Manitoba capital.

Although his own dreams of glory were dashed over two decades ago, Edwards is throwing himself into his torchbearing duties with as much gusto as he did on the ski jump as Britain's one-man team.

"It's great. I'm loving it," Edwards said yesterday between a curling lesson at a Winnipeg rink and ice-skating on Manitoba's frozen rivers.

"I'm honoured to be asked to take part in the Olympic torch relay and be a part of the Canadian Olympic ideals and dreams and aspirations."

The 45-year-old had been ski jumping for just two years when he decided he wanted to participate at the



"It's great. I'm loving it."

Eddie (the Eagle) Edwards

1988 Olympics. Back then, there were fewer restrictions on who could compete and Edwards put his name forward.

With huge, often-fogged-up Coke-bottle glasses, a prominent underbite and permanent smile, Edwards threw himself into the competition — and placed a very distant last.

That mattered little to the thousands who mobbed him throughout the Games and chanted his name as he tentatively launched himself off Calgary's 120-metre ski jump.

"I didn't realize I was going to become Eddie the Eagle and that I was going to become as big as I got at Calgary," said Edwards.

His poor performance and high profile at the Olympics prompted officials to change the rules. They tightened requirements for Olympic hopefuls and restricted spots to top athletes.

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High expectations

Men's aerialists hope to avoid repeat of Turin disappointments

Their reactions ranged from confusion to optimism to bitter disappointment.

Four years after a disastrous showing at the 2006 Olympic Games, Canada's top men's aerialists are in a far better frame of mind this time around, confident they can put the memories of Turin behind them.

Steve Omischl is the lone Canadian to have already secured his spot for the Vancouver Games while Ryan Blais, Warren Shouldice and Kyle Nissen are also hoping to make the Olympic team and help Canada deliver on the high expectations next month at Cypress Mountain.

They opened their World Cup season in December at Changchun, China, where Omischl was the top Canadian, earning a fourth- and a fifth-place finish.

The preparation continues this weekend with a World Cup in Calgary.

The Canadian men are no strangers to pre-Olympic hype. Omischl, a native of North Bay, Ont., who now lives in Kelowna, B.C., was

"I definitely bit off more than I could chew."

Steve Omischl

the defending World Cup champion four years ago. But he was battling a plantar fasciitis injury that cost him several months of competition leading up to the Games. Ever the daredevil, Omischl attempted a difficult jump in the qualifying round, but botched the landing and ended up a disappointing 20th.

"I definitely bit off more than I could chew, and after coming off an injury, that was probably ill-advised," Omischl said during a recent interview.

"The whole coaching staff would probably agree with that, but that's what happens after coming off an injury and not training very

much that year and then trying to do something harder than you're capable of. That's probably not the best scenario."

For Omischl and former national team veteran Jeff Bean, who also failed to qualify for the final, the result was devastating. Omischl was a wreck afterward, suggesting

Steve Omischl

Learn more about Steve Omischl in an interactive profile at: metronews.ca/sports

gesting the qualifying miss was one of the worst moments of his life.

When asked if he has forgotten about the Turin fiasco, Omischl paused.

"Well, it's ... nothing is ever behind you," said Omischl, who finished 11th at his first Olympics in Salt Lake City.

"You learn from what experiences happen throughout your career."

One of the lessons Omischl learned in Italy? Don't overcompensate.

"If anything, I'm just going to carry that knowledge that if I do have a minor setback or an injury going into Vancouver, that I don't have to, to use a

cheesy hockey analogy, 'grip the stick' so tight," he said. "I don't have to try that hard if I have a setback, I just kind of need to relax and trust in my abilities."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



City of Vancouver electrician Jason Raposo hangs Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games banners yesterday.

Thousands of banners being hung in Vancouver

The city of Vancouver has started installing thousands of lamp-post banners displaying official Olympic logos in the lead-up to next month's Winter Games.

The 6,000 banners will be erected in the coming weeks throughout the city, featuring images of Olympic events and the official shades of blues and greens that make up the so-called look of the Games.

Vancouver is spending about \$650,000 on the project, with about half that paying for the banners and the rest covering the cost to put them up.

After the Games, the banners will likely be used for other purposes — as in the past, when about 700 banners celebrating Vancouver's successful Olympic bid were turned into backpacks for inner-city school children.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some Olympic staffers unhappy about losing use of BlackBerrys

A power struggle at Vancouver's Olympic headquarters has left staff divided into two camps: Those who get to keep their BlackBerrys and those who don't.

Since Waterloo-based Research In Motion, maker of the beloved communication device, is not a sponsor, Olympic staffers are being forced to turn in their

BlackBerrys for an Omnia or a Vice, both made by South Korea's Samsung, official provider of wireless communications equipment for the 2010 Olympics.

The move has been met with a thumbs down by

some staffers at the organizing committee, known as VANOC, because they're frustrated with the touch-screen devices and say key functions like sending and reading email are nearly impossible. Officially, VANOC

downplays the concerns, saying staffers with Samsungs just need to get used to the product.

Still, concerted lobbying at VANOC headquarters has meant a compromise allowing some staffers to discreetly keep their BlackBerry device, a rare breach of official sponsor protocol.

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Comment

Pitfalls of resolutions

Relating

Steve Collins

metronews.ca/collins

So, it's been almost a week. How are those resolutions holding up?

I wish you luck. The delinquency rates are high, and no wonder. This is a wretched time of year to embark on major renovations to one's finances, waistline, health or character. It's my personal conviction that to get through these dark, cold months, you'll need every vice and crutch you have in your arsenal.

Bad habits might be easier dumped in June, but we persist in picking this arbitrary date to spontaneously

improve.

I've made one small, timid resolution, indeed one perhaps so incremental as to be meaningless. My beloved has a handful of semi-ambitious ones and a **"We are also not better track always at our easiest to live with while in the throes of self-improvement."**

I see no sign so far that either of our plans have us headed for couple trouble, which resolutions can bring about with unnerving ease.

First and foremost, resolution season has us focused on our faults, thus reminding our partners of a few minor glitches instead of the pretty damn OK overall package.

Excessive dissatisfaction with oneself can be contagious.

We are also not always at our easiest to live with while in the throes of self-improvement.

improvement. If you're trying to kick booze or smokes, your special someone gets to enjoy your irritability at deprivation or self-loathing at backslide.

You can also find yourself roped into resolutions you never made. If your partner is on a diet, especially if you live together, good luck not ending up on it yourself. Misery loves company, and gets annoying if you keep snarfing back the pizza.

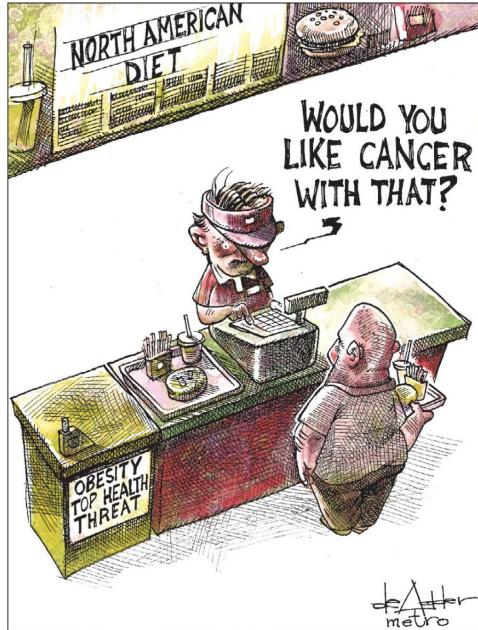
It probably helps to share your resolutions with each other, to get that gym buddy effect and reinforce your respective resolve, but, in the face of entirely understandable failure, a little understanding goes a long way.

And please, please, refrain from making resolutions for each other, or even suggesting them, except in extreme circumstances. Let's say you can suggest one every five years if you're willing to accept suggestions in turn, but I'd still suggest skipping it entirely.

Never far enough away, after all, is the ultimate hazard of this time of year: Getting resolved right out the door as your significant other starts taking stock and deciding what stays and what goes in his or her life, and you end up on the latter list.

It's not for nothing that family lawyers mark D-Day (Jan. 8 or thereabouts), the day that they begin the greatest annual volume of divorce proceedings. I suspect a lot of these begin as New Year's resolutions. Be careful out there.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.



Worth mentioning

Report blows tetrapod theory out of the water

The water-dwelling ancestors of modern-day mammals, reptiles and birds emerged onto land millions of years earlier than previously believed, researchers reported.

Until now, scientists thought they had the evolution from fin to foot fairly well understood. The earliest tetrapods had been traced to 385 million years ago. Experts theorized they had split from their close relatives, a fleshy-finned family of fish, a few million years earlier and then gone on to conquer land.

A set of fossilized footprints show the first tetrapods — a term applied to any four-footed animal with a spine — were treading open ground 397 million years ago, well before scientists thought they existed.

"It blows the whole story out of the water, so to speak," said Jenny Clack, a paleontologist at Cambridge University.

The work appears in today's issue of the journal Nature.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

385

Views

Idiot box: Tuning out Berlusconi's TV culture

FourthWave

Canice Leung

metronews.ca/fourthwave

One of the joys of living in an immigrant household is the access to diasporic television. It connects you to your family's pop culture — which in my case consists mostly of soap operas, cooking shows and abnormally thin, doll-like beauty queens vying for the Miss Hong Kong crown.

So I understand the preoccupation with the idea of femininity, something that seems to afflict Lorella Zanardo as well. Her documentary-manifesto, *Il Corpo Delle Donne* (Women's Bodies), was borne out of the frustration of watching Italian television turn

women into *veline* — bikini-clad talk show sidekicks.

In clips from the doc, the models are mocked for their ditziness, paraded before male talk show hosts in thongs, doused within glass-walled showers, or (in a painfully literal analogy) hung from hooks like meat. Despite the treatment, *veline* are celebrities, courted by famous soccer players, so it's no surprise some young Italian women report they strive to become one.

"Real women's bodies have been hidden away; instead we are presented with an obsessively vulgar image made of silicone lips, thighs, breasts: The truth is removed and replaced with a mask," Zanardo narrates, one she

says robs women of their identities, opinions, and natural beauty. "Who are we? What do we want? Why aren't all Italian women in the streets protesting against the way they are represented?"

I asked my friend Nina, whose family watches Italian shows the way mine watches Hong Kong ones, whether it really was as bad as the doc suggested. It is, she nodded.

The root of the problem? "It's Berlusconi," she said, referring to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Before he ruled Italy's politics, he conquered its culture with his Mediaset empire of television stations. *Veline* are rampant on his channels, and a former model, Mara Carfagna, went on to become his

minister of equal opportunity.

It's shocking there's been little backlash until now, but Berlusconi's popularity among women, his primary supporters, is waning. His dalliance with an 18-year-old highlighted the absurdity of this 73-year-old man's attitude towards women.

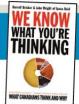
I was heartened to read this from Italian Prof. Chiara Volpato in a New York Times op-ed: "Today there are two Italys: One Italy has soaked up Mr. Berlusconi's ideology either out of self-interest or an inability to resist his enormous powers of persuasion; the other is fighting back" — which means sooner or later, they're going to rise up and pull the plug on Silvio's TV set.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.

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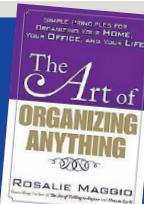
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Clean up that Christmas mess

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Struggling with post-Christmas clutter can suck the holiday cheer out of any home as festive lights yield to January bleakness, so Metro asked professional organizers for tips on reclaiming your space.

Jane Veldhoven, owner of the Halifax-based Get Organized!, says the first step is out with the old to make room for the new.

"I see so many people spending time moving their stuff from one place to another, when in reality there is just way too much stuff and no matter how much organizing you do, it's never going to be un-

der control," she says.

Go online to offload your old TVs and sweaters. Use Facebook, Kijiji, Craigslist and your local freecycling site to find new homes.

"You post something on there you think no one will want and low and behold, there they are," she says. "It amazes me."

If that doesn't work, give your excess baggage to furniture banks and charity stores. Veldhoven connects clients to an artistically inclined church that regularly funnels unwanted items to amateur artisans, who happily recraft them.

Rosalie Maggio, author of *The Art of Organizing Anything*, says don't fear the clutter. "Here's my theory: If you have clutter in the house, there's proba-



Tidying after the holiday may seem daunting, but as author (of *The Art of Organizing Everything*) and consultant Rosalie Maggio says, "Procrastinating has its place."

bly room for it in the house," she says. "What blows a lot of people is

that it's so much to deal with."

So don't deal with it.

"No matter how much organizing you do, it's never going to be under control."

Jane Veldhoven on the virtues of selling your old stuff

Take Santa and the lights down, stuff things under the bed and make your house livable. Then forget about it until February.

"Procrastinating has its place," the California-based consultant says.

When you do start, break it down. Line up the rooms and go after them one by one. Channel the clutter as you go by starting a pile at the front door for things leaving the house, one for keys, one for mail and even one for things that have no immediate home. This keeps things moving to-

ward their intended destinations, cutting clutter off at the pass. When you get to re-storing things, use the unused spaces under the bed for clothes or nets hanging from children's bedroom walls for toys or in the garage for sports equipment.

In the end, it only matters if it bothers you and your housemates, Maggio says. "There are people who are just a mess, and they're fine. It's only other people who say, 'Do you have enemies? Who did this to you?'"

Some tips for quiet time

HomeScape



metronews.ca/homescape

making.

I've discovered that our kitchen, now so charmingly open and accessible to all (thanks to long-awaited renovations), is loud during large gatherings. All the lovely new hard surfacing such as tiles and countertops and backsplashes reflect right back at you the loud laughs, clattering dishes, excited dog barks and shrieks from over-stimulated children.

Sensible people might consider rationing the sugar and leaving the dog in a doggie hotel, and I might just consider it next year. Of course, I might have also anticipated noise and built sound attenuation technology into my home, but

that didn't happen.

So for those of you in a similar situation,

let me pass on the results of my reflections on how home decor can easily be used to help minimize noise.

If a home is newly built or renovated or is simply sparsely decorated, sound waves have many smooth, reflective surfaces to bounce from, unobstructed, and noise becomes an issue. Particularly in a large room, such as a family room, you need soft (porous) surfaces to absorb noise rather than reflective hard surfacing.

That doesn't mean every surface has to be covered in fabric. A good rule of thumb is to cover at least 25 per cent of surfaces in a room in fabric or sound-attenuating finishes.

For example, a rug on the floor — on any type of uncarpeted flooring — will do wonders. Not only does it prevent loud clattering and footfalls, but it helps absorb ambient noise.

Sofas and chairs upholstered with fabric also provide a surface that absorbs noise, as do fabric cushions and throw blankets.



If you're thinking of putting the dog in the kennel for occasions due to noise, try these tips to control sound first.

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Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Crawford rejects '80s trend

Cindy Crawford refuses to wear the '80s trend because she was around the first time it was popular. The 43-year-old supermodel — who quit full time modelling in 2000 — doesn't always wear what's in fashion because she now knows what flatters her. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Style



EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Canada's Next Top Paper Dolls

Illustrator commemorates designers with fun cutouts

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

DESIGNS In the early days of her enthralment with fashion, when she was a child, fashion illustrator Danielle Meder checked costume-history books out of the library and used them as reference to make paper dolls and elaborate cut-out paper gowns.

She moved on to other mediums as she grew older, but returned to paper dolls last fall to commemorate Toronto LG Fashion Week's spring/summer 2010 collections.

"Every time fashion week comes around I look for a way to cover it that is different," said the Ryerson fashion grad in an interview with Metro.

"The season before, I did watercolour postcards."

In total, Meder's charming project consists of 15 designer collections (including Vawk, Evan Bidwell, Jessica Jensen, Pink Tartan and even Sears Attitude), 17 paper dolls and more than 60 items of clothing and accessories. "I did the drawings by hand, inked the outlines, scanned them, and coloured them in Photoshop," explains Meder. Each doll took about three hours to complete.

Paper Dolls is available as a bound book printed on heavy stock for \$43 US from blurb.com, as well as in PDF form for \$17.95 directly from Meder via finalfashion@gmail.com. A free mini download is also available on her blog, finalfashion.ca.



Above: Lovas designs.

Left: Vawk design.

Mark Fast on fashion principles

PEOPLE Any up-and-coming designer would be giddy at the opportunity to dress Lady Gaga, the fashion world's latest style icon.

But when the pop star's stylist approached Mark Fast to borrow some of his body-hugging knitwear designs, the Canadian-born, London-based designer politely declined.

"I love her music and that Bad Romance song is stuck in my head all the time, but we don't necessarily have to accept everyone just because they are famous," says the soft-spoken designer.

"My work is about a lifestyle. It's not fast-food fashion. It's not about trends, it's about classic, it's about the body, it's about beauty. Maybe that gets lost in the picture with certain celebrities."

Not that the 29-year-old designer has anything against celebrities. Kate Moss, Beyoncé, Kylie



Mark Fast put size 0 and size 12 models on the same runway for his summer 2010 collection to show his knit dresses suit all sizes.

Minogue and Rihanna are all fans of his body-sculpting knitwear with the sexy peekaboo weaves that is often referred to as hosiery for the body.

"He has taken an old craft and made it look modern," says Barbara Atkin, vice-

president of fashion direction at Holt Renfrew, where Fast's collection is sold in Canada.

Expectations are high to see what magic he will weave for his next show at London fashion week in February. TORSTARNEWSERVICE.COM

Style in brief

MEDIA British fashion publication V Magazine is breaking the mould with an upcoming issue devoted entirely to curvier women. Called "The Size Issue," the special edition will include high-fashion shoots of women with fuller thighs, tummies, breasts and even love handles sporting Gucci, Dolce

& Gabbana and more. V Magazine's Size Issue hits newsstands Jan. 14. ould 2010 be the year of the plus-size model?

CLOTHING LINE Grammy award-winning pop band Kings of Leon are coming out with a new line of clothing this

month to be sold at select stores in the U.S. and London, England, including Barneys New York. The 12-piece collection, called S2A x KOL, will include plaid shirts, stovepipe jeans, belts, jewelry, guitar straps and, of course, black fedoras. It hits stores Jan. 25.

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Planet Organic on the south side offers evening sessions on a number of topics. Visit planetorganic.ca for a schedule and future events. **METRO EDMONTON**

Urban Foodie**Best of 2009 in Edmonton food**

CHRISTOPHER THRALL
EdmontonUrbanFoodie@gmail.com

780-438-4100
murrietas.ca

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780-489-8086
homefiregrill.ca
Ragazzi Bistro Italiano
8110 Whyte Avenue
780-414-0500
ragazzibistro.ca
Tasty Tom's Bistro
9965 Whyte Avenue
780-437-5761
Murrieta's Bar & Grill
10612 Whyte Avenue

I savoured everything from Refresh Organic's borscht to the New Asian Village buffet. Cora's made the best breakfast, the Urban Diner made the best Saturday brunch and Century Grill provided the best overall dining experience. I came up with the best menu of 2009.

The meal starts at Homefire Grill and a Long Beach Iced Tea (\$6.50),

made with Sprite and cranberry instead of Coke and bitters. To accompany my drink, I request the molten Bocconcini pearls (\$8.50) wrapped in chewy prosciutto ham from Ragazzi Bistro Italiano. The subtle, salty cheese is delightfully balanced by sweet and spicy tomato sauce. My entrée is from Tasty Tom's, an unpretentious Bavarian bistro on Whyte Avenue. Its Farmer's Platter of schnitzel, bratwurst,

kesso, boiled potatoes and housemade sauerkraut (\$19) knocked my mid-teleuropean socks off and filled my lunch kit for several days afterwards.

My culinary tour of Edmonton ends at Murrieta's, for its macadamia nut and peanut butter mud pie (\$9.13) under a warm rum caramel sauce. Never have so many calories died in such noble service.

Why not resolve to try somewhere new in 2010?



Tasty Tom's Farmer's Platter of schnitzel, bratwurst, kesso, boiled potatoes and housemade sauerkraut (\$19).

Global Peasant blog online

• Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.

• Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of oven roasted radishes

**Dining out**

WINE According to onlyhereforthefood.ca, both Vinomania and The Bothy are equipped with state-of-the-art Enomatic Wine Serving Systems, which dispense wine from the bottle using inert gas preservation. Characteristics of the wine can remain intact for more than three weeks, as if the bottle had just been opened. These systems can extend by-the-glass menus, or allow wine

and scotch tasting to range.

TREESTONE Husband and wife Yvan and Ritsuko Chartrand took over the Treestone bakery on 99th Street. They ran a bakery in Sapporo, Japan, for 18 years. Treestone has always offered organic, European-style options and the new owners plan to continue with no preservative or additives.

— METRO CANADA

In brief

EAT HEALTHY Find unusual heritage vegetables, free-range chicken and duck at Greens, Eggs and Ham. Andreas, Mary Ellen and their daughters Ariana and Megan work the 10-acre mixed family farm in Leduc County, marketing their products to high end restaurants and several retail outlets. If you haven't tried a turkey bomb, then you simply haven't lived. 780-986-8680. — METRO CANADA

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Derks



Robbie Williams plans to get married on Valentine's Day, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singer got engaged last week but is desperate to make Ayda Field — who he has been dating for around three years — his wife. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Williams wants wedding bells

Celebrity Buzz

Celebrity tweets

Eddie Izzard is looking out for the foxes and Tila Tequila starts a feud with Perez Hilton.

• **@eddieizzard** In the UK, the Tory party will bring back fox hunting if they can win an election. They haven't changed from last time.

• **@OfficialTila** @PerezHilton haha already showing your true colors like a fat little kid who lost another canary bar.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Manson pops question?

ENOUGH WEDDING BLISS TO MAKE YOU SICK

Marilyn Manson apparently wants to make it official with Evan Rachel Wood. The singer reportedly proposed on-stage at a Paris concert.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Claimant seeks cash from Jacko estate

IT JUST DOESN'T STOP One of the many claims filed against Michael Jackson's estate turns out to be from a woman who claims she was briefly married to the eccentric pop star in the 1970s.

Shellie Doreen Smith says she doesn't re-

member the exact details of their brief marriage, but the private ceremony took place at a New York hotel, and the only witnesses were hotel employees, according to TMZ. Smith is seeking spousal support.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sly fractures neck

SLAP ON THE STUNNER

Sylvester Stallone got a little to into his work while filming The Expendables, with one fight scene sending him to the hospital with a broken neck.

"My fight with Stone

Cold Steve Austin was so vicious that I ended up getting a hairline fracture in my neck. I'm not joking," Stallone tells FHM magazine. "I haven't told anyone this, but I had to have a very serious operation afterwards. I now have a metal plate in my neck."

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Brand, Perry engaged

MORE WEDDING BLISS

Word is circulating that comedian Russell Brand and singer Katy Perry reportedly are engaged, with usmagazine.com reporting Brand has confirmed the impending nuptials.

Brand, 34, is quoted in Wednesday's editions of the Britain Sun as texting, "It's true. Much love."

Adding fuel to the flame, Perry, 25, Tweeted around 1 a.m. New York time from Thailand on Wednesday an oblique reference to an Alanis Morissette



song: "So when do I start walking the streets naked singing that Alanis song?" Morissette's lines in

Thank You include: "How about me just enjoying the moment for once" and "Thank you India" (where the couple vacationed recently).

The couple, who've been dating since this autumn, have been nearly inseparable since hooking up. But that there were rumours of nuptials isn't surprising: Brand hinted earlier this month that he foresaw having kids with the singer, famous for her over-the-top fruit-themed props.

On the domestic front, Perry has already introduced the comedian to her religious parents, and once showed off a pair of undies embroidered with the colors of his favorite soccer team, West Ham United.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Swift has body image issues

AS DO MANY STARLETS AND THE YOUNG GIRLS WHO IDOLIZE THEM... MAKES YOU THINK, DOESN'T IT? Taylor Swift doesn't like her body, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Despite her glittering film and music career, the 20-year-old starlet isn't confident with her appearance and is inundated with insecurities about her face and body.

She said: "I definitely have body issues, but everybody does. When you come to the realization that everybody does that — even the people that I consider flawless — then you can start to live with the way you are.

"I've read interviews with some of the most beautiful women who have insecurities. And you

look at them and you're like 'How do you have?' Name one thing wrong with yourself and they could name a handful."

However, Taylor has vowed to beat her insecurities and learn to love her body.

She said: "I don't really want to be that way. I'd like to try to maintain

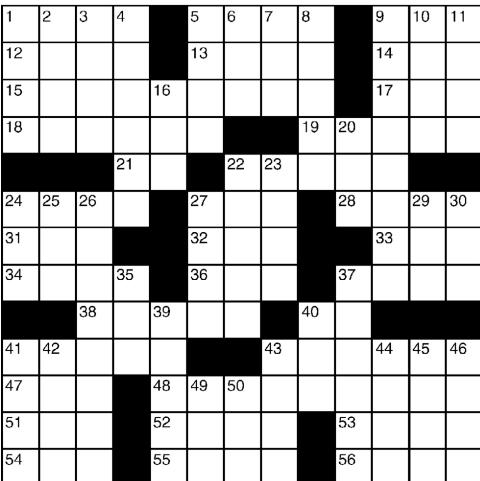
confidence and stay okay with who I am because I don't really want to change it. Everybody has insecurities — everybody — but hopefully you can overcome them."

METRO WORLD NEWS

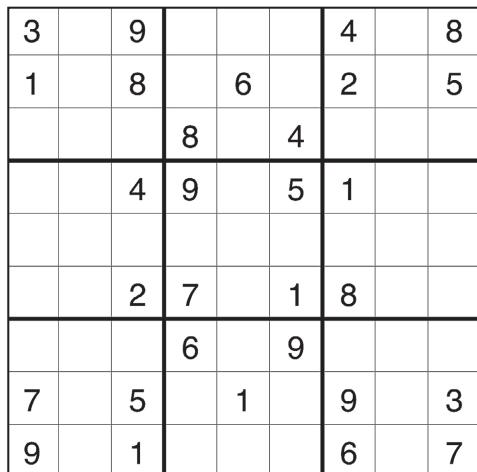
**Michele McDougall, Weather Specialist & Host – Breakfast Television**

'My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes.'

WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

**Sudoku**For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

**PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:**

A S A P	E G G	A L O T	4	6	7	2	5	8	3	1	9
N U D E	N E O	N O G O	8	5	1	4	3	9	2	7	6
T E A R I N	I N T O	T O R N	3	2	9	6	1	7	4	8	5
S T R I D E	D R A K E S		5	1	4	7	8	6	9	2	3
L E A S A R I			7	9	3	5	2	4	8	6	1
A R C	A D S	T E N O R	6	8	2	1	9	3	7	5	4
B O O B	S A G	S T A Y	9	7	6	8	4	5	1	3	2
A M M A N	D E W	O R E	1	4	5	3	7	2	6	9	8
E L I Z	N A B		2	3	8	9	6	1	5	4	7
G R I L L E	O R E G O N										
M O N O	B U M P I N T O										
A L T O	R A E	G A T O									
N E O N	A R S	E W O K									

On the webFor more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca**Horoscopes by Sally Brompton** sallybrompton.comFor Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca**ARIES****MARCH 21-APRIL 20**

You will be tempted to do something outrageous today, just to spice things up a bit. You must not go too far over the top. You'll regret it if you do.

TAURUS**APRIL 21-MAY 21**

You will have at least one and maybe several opportunities to move up in the world over the next few days, but will you take advantage of them?

GEMINI**MAY 22-JUNE 21**

You can sense that something good is going to happen but because you are so impatient you may try to hurry things along, and that could be a mistake.

CANCER**JUNE 22-JULY 22**

Something will happen so suddenly today that you may be shocked by how quickly a situation you thought you had under control deteriorates.

LEO**JULY 23-AUG 23**

You may be tempted to take some kind of risk today, the kind of risk that has paid off for you many times in the past. It might swamp you.

VIRGO**AUG 24-SEPT 22**

Someone will play on your emotions today, most likely just for the fun of it. They can only hurt you if you take what they say seriously.

LIBRA**SEPT 23-OCT 23**

Two groups of friends – one to do with your work and one to do with your family – are unlikely to mix well today, so keep them apart if you can.

SCORPIO**OCT 24-NOV 22**

Watch what you say and how you say it over the next 24 hours, because your words may be interpreted as being overly aggressive or antagonistic.

SAGITTARIUS**NOV 23-DEC 21**

In all areas, but especially when dealing with people you don't know too well, avoid excessive behavior. Tone down your act a bit.

CAPRICORN**DEC 22-JAN 20**

The urge to do something drastic, especially in regards to your money situation, must be controlled.

AQUARIUS**JAN 21-FEB 18**

A setback of some kind will throw your day into confusion and there is really not a lot you'll be able to do about it. You'll survive it.

PISCES**FEB 19-MARCH 20**

Your wellbeing is very much on your mind at the moment and you may be thinking of starting a new health or fitness regime. That's good, but don't go crazy.

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New Year!

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App Store**This day in history**

1959 – The United States recognizes the new Cuban government of Fidel Castro.
1980 – President Jimmy Carter authorizes legislation giving \$1.5 billion in loans to bail out the Chrysler Corporation.
1990 – The interior of the Leaning Tower of Pisa is closed to the public because of safety concerns.
1993 – The Fourth Republic of Ghana is inaugurated with Jerry Rawlings as President.
1999 – The impeachment of President Bill Clinton begins.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

entertainment 15**Take Five****Metro Recipe of the Day****Quick Thai Chicken Pizza**

Submitted by: Darlene Chapman Dawson Creek, B.C.

INGREDIENTS:

1 boneless skinless chicken breast
1 Cup skim milk
mozzarella cheese
1 Cup shredded carrot (packaged ok)
1 Cup bean sprouts
4 whole wheat large tortillas
2 Tablespoon olive oil
2 Teaspoon sesame oil
2 Tablespoon tahini paste (look for this in the peanut butter section of the supermarket)
2 green onion
2 Teaspoon sesame seeds

SERVES 2**PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES****COOK TIME: 15 MINUTES**

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